

112 STATE STREET
2342
DRAWER 20
8390
MONTPELIER VT 05620-2601
vtdps@psd.state.vt.us
TEL: (802) 828-2811
http://www.state.vt.us/psd



FAX: (802) 828-
TTY (vt): 1-800-734-

e-mail:

Internet:

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Tom Franks, 802/828-4035

DPS TO ACCREDIT HOME ENERGY RATING SERVICES

MONTPELIER, VT – The Vermont Department of Public Service Accreditation procedure for Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) providers was approved and adopted by Commissioner David O'Brien on May 22, 2003. Beginning July 1, 2003, each home energy rating organization must receive accreditation from the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) before providing home energy rating services in Vermont. The Vermont Department of Public Service is now accepting applications for accreditation.

The purpose of the procedure is to ensure that accurate and consistent home energy ratings are performed by accredited HERS providers. It will promote an objective, cost-effective, and sustainable home energy rating process which can:

- serve as compliance method for residential building energy codes,
- accurately gauge the performance of energy saving measures, and
- help Vermont's housing market reliably differentiate their products based on energy efficiency

The procedure sets minimum standards for rater training, operating procedures and policies, software programs, and quality control. These standards assure that customers can rely on the representations of accredited providers.

The Vermont Legislature required the DPS to implement an accreditation procedure for HERS providers. This procedure is the culmination of many years work building consensus among the affected stakeholders.

Applications for accreditation and additional information on the procedure is available on the web at <http://www.state.vt.us/psd/ee/HERS/HERS.htm>, or contact Tom Franks, Department of Public Service, 112 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier VT 05620-2601, 802-828-4035.

